To Rev. J. F. Clarke —
Returned to S. M. after
J. F. C.'s death —

My appeal to
J. F. C. to make
public amends

Leicester.
Jany 12/86.

Dear James;

Whenever you can manage to send me a copy of your lines for the Class (last week) I shall have a particular pleasure in adding them to the Class-collection; and perhaps sending copies to some of the absentees. Have you any present view as to ~~their~~ printing them?

— Have you been able to get the time to read the Garrison vols? I want you to read them! thoroughly & faithfully! Others,— beyond the circle of ~~the~~ his mixed. friends — who knew him intimately & could reconcile what to outsiders seemed contradictory, harsh, &c &c.— have spoken of the vols. as of extraordinary interest to them, both for the remarkable character set forth, and for the attractive form, of style, arrangement, grouping, &c in wh. that character is presented. I have recently seen Garrison likened to Peter the Hermit — with truth, I suppose, (so far as I know the latter) as regards his force of character, firmness of purpose, absolute devotion to his idea. But Peter was, I think, eminently a "man of one idea" — as it was so common to *accuse* Garrison ~~of~~ with being; yet very falsely, — as witness the accusations of another set of his critics, ~~[illegible]~~ that he would *not* let the Church, and the Sabbath, and Non-resistance, and "the confounded Woman question" alone, and stick to his Antislavery text. The *Woman-question*, clearly, was thrown right across his path — was a vital question as to the life & conduct of the A. S. cause, and *could not* be avoided, if he had been so disposed. As to the others, he used the *liberty* — no more no less — that every man who thinks at all, uses. — His real distinction, it seems to me, is, that he was absolutely *uncompromising* — wherein he seems to me to stand alone among Americans,* — or nearly that; — actually so, on the conspicuous scale of a long-protracted, national contest. He *would not* knowingly lower, or deviate from, ~~[illegible]~~ his principles, his sense of right & duty. He wd. not know *expediency*, adaptation to men & times & places, (i.e. in ye sense of yielding anything of the demands of absolute right.) This was his early distinction — this was where he became an *educator* and a power — this is what gained for him the *confidence* of many, — and their

* Caleb Stetson called Compromise" the great American devil" —

confidence became ~~[illegible]~~ entire trust, and for the reason that, not for life & all its gifts & honors, would he swerve – or temporize – or make concession of the claims of justice. He had no right to make such concessions, he would have said, and would be false to his convictions, and to his calling, if he did.

I see that Dr. Bartol has been drawing a comparison between him & Dr. Channing; and I must say I ~~thought~~ it weak and very unworthy of so good ~~[illegible]~~ a soul as Dr. B. He seems not even to have read his New Testament lately, except as to "viper" – a pretty hard word, and very far from the only one. – Suppose the A. S. cause had been left in the hands of our dear Henry Ware, of Dr. Channing, and of Leonard Bacon, & the like, who opposed Slavery after their fashion! Neither you nor I can know where it w^d. have been; but I believe Slavery w^d. have continued to grow, as it did under the rebukes and well-reasoned opposition of Jefferson, Franklin, and their co-workers & cotemporaries; would have more & more humiliated the North, and worked its will with the nation. Slavery required, for its overthrow, what Garrison brought, – and barely brought in time – and yet not in time for anything but the bloody arbitration, the worst, most awful of all. No blame to him for that. – ~~[illegible]~~ Had the American Churches – which G. essayed to bring up to their duty – been ~~[illegible]~~ united in demanding the cessation of Slavery, it would have gone down without a drop of blood;

S. May - 1886

ms. B.1.6 v.11, p.62

Albert Barnes, no fanatic or extremist, affirms that. How can Dr. Channing be put forwar as the ~~[illegible]~~ leader! God knows I honor Dr. Ch'g., and admit the great & good work which he did - did *very bravely* in many respects, - and yet with continual self-imposed limitations, which to me look ~~more~~ like hesitancy & doubt, rather than a sublime trust in truth & justice. I do not want to detract a ~~particle~~ from Dr. C.'s just fame; but the principle of "Magis amica veritas" must ~~be~~ hold for him, as for ~~[illegible]~~ other men. It seems to *me that* Dr. C. was *indebted to Mr. Garrison for his audience*, ~~&~~ mainly. His words would have had no consideration, with the multitude, but for the uncompromisin demands wh. had preceded them and ~~[illegible]~~ gone all over the land, and made men begin to realize that *something had to be done*; ~~[illegible]~~ then they ~~would~~ made a merit of listen to the more careful & measured words which Dr. C. gave them, and professed to be convinced by hi when it was the earlier voice which had aroused *them*. - *Do you think Dr. Ch. w'd have written his book*, had it not been for G.'s pioneer work? Then there are, in my judgment, positive *stains* upon Dr. Channing position and course, as an opponent of slavery, which cannot be excused, o winked out of sight. Witness his refusal to meet, confer with, or otherwise recognize Mr. Garrison! Read that respectful, deferential, eloquent appeal to h (by Garrison) (Vol. I. 464), and think, that Dr. C. *never noticed it*! Most shamefu say; - the letter was enough to cause the stones to cry out. Witness his counsel t Mrs. Chapman, to withdraw from the A. S. work, to *suppress her convictions*; a more of the same. I will never forget, or be silent on, his good work, his ~~[illegible]~~ cou in some connexions, his fine spirit often. But his course does not admit of indi criminate defence; for ~~[illegible]~~ it had many mistakes, & some serious faults.

The Unitarian writers, as yet, have not done themselves any credit - with the manifest exception of Chadwick - in their notices of the Garrison vols, - the Chr. Reg.r has been lamentably deficient. - Always truly Yrs. Saml. May.